

FORWARD

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STUDENTS LEARN PEASANTS' LIFE: A woman peasant explains paddy transplanting work in detail to students of a State High School in Rangoon who are at the village to learn the life of peasants at close quarters.

Photo by U San Win

FORWARD

Vol. III, No. 1 August 15, 1964

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Photo By U San Win

Cover:

Students from Thingangyun State High School on way to Sincheyar Village to learn rural life at first hand

Printed by the Superintendent, Central Press and Published by the Directorate of Information, Rangoon, Burma.

Current Affairs

REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Dinner-Reception for U Thant

General Ne Win, Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, and Madame Ne Win held a dinner-reception in honour of the visiting UN Secretary-General, U Thant, at the State House on July 25.

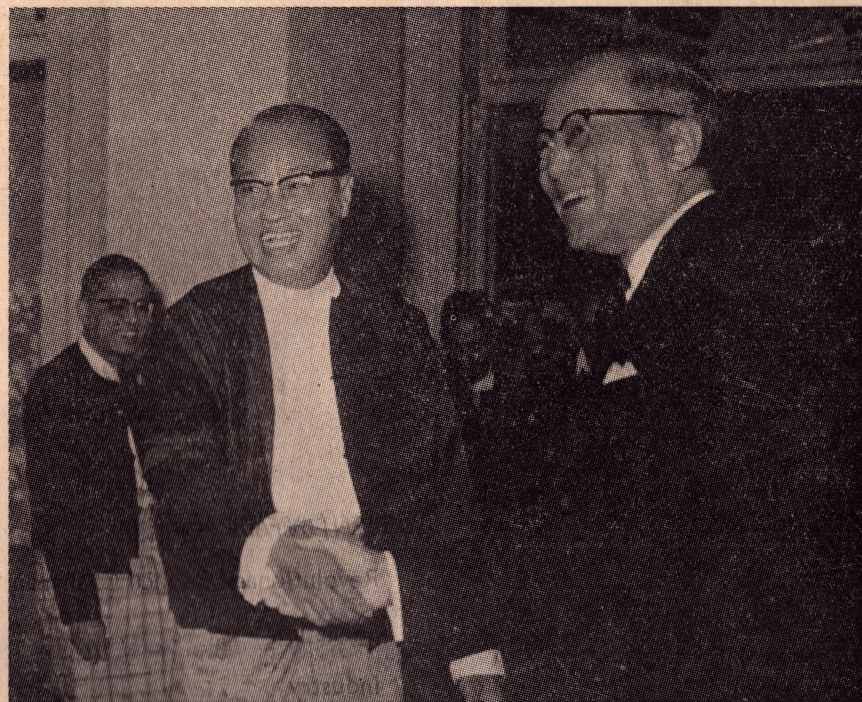
The dinner was attended among others by Members of the Revolutionary Council: Brigadier Tin Pe, Brigadier San Yu, Colonel Saw Myint, Colonel Than Sein, Colonel Hla Han and Colonel Tan Yu Saing; Members of the Revolutionary Government: Foreign Minister U Thi Han and Transport and Communications Minister Colonel Ba Ni; Colonel Lwin of the Defence Ministry; Permanent Secretary U Soe Tin and Executive Secretary U Ohn Khin of the Foreign Office; U Thant's daughter, Aye Aye Thant, and her husband, and brothers.

After dinner, the UN Secretary-General and other guests were entertained to a programme of classical and variety dances performed by artistes of the Ministry of Union Culture and of the Burma Broadcasting Service.

In-Service Educational Course inaugurated

General Ne Win, Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, and Chief of Staff of the Defence Services, addressed the first In-Service Educational Course inaugurated on July 27.

Commanding Officers of the three Armed Services attending the first In-Service Educational Course inaugurated on July 27



General Ne Win greeting UN Secretary-General U Thant at dinner at State House on July 25

tional Course, organized by the Ministry of Defence, in Rangoon, on July 27.

The course was attended by seventy-five trainees comprising Commanding Officers and General Staff Officers of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force.

The ceremony was attended, among others, by Brigadier Tin Pe, Brigadier San Yu, Brigadier

Sein Win, and other Members of the Revolutionary Council; Members of the Revolutionary Government; the Vice-Chiefs of Staff of the Navy and the Air Force, and other senior officers of the three branches of the Defence Services.

EDUCATION

BSPP Philosophy to be taught in Universities

A new curriculum for university students taking Philosophy as one of the subjects of study is being drawn up by university authorities in Burma so as to comprehend "The System of Correlation of Man and His Environment", as embodied in the Philosophy of the Burma Socialist Programme Party, as well as Marxist Philosophy, including Historical Materialism.

Under the new curriculum, courses offered for First Year Arts students will include Deductive Logic, Inductive Logic and Dialectics; for Second Year Arts students, Mathematical Logic and the History of Philosophic Systems, including Marxist Philosophy; for Third Year Arts students, The System of Correlation of Man and His Environment, Higher Logic, Deduction and Induction in Detail, Schools of Indian Philosophy, and Dialectical Materialism; and in the case of Fourth Year Arts students, Historical Materialism, Eastern Ethics including Chinese, Japanese, Indian

and Burmese ethics, and also Modern Western Philosophy.

As complement to courses on Philosophy, seminars and symposiums will be arranged periodically by universities for the benefit of Fourth Year Arts students where theses and papers prepared by themselves will be read and discussed.

The new curriculum will also provide for occasional visits by Philosophy students to factories, mills and agricultural fields with a view to enable them to study at first hand how the Burmese Way to Socialism is adopted in various fields of activity.

Furthermore, to facilitate the teaching of Philosophy in Burmese to First, Second and Third Year Arts students, arrangements are in hand to undertake the translation into Burmese of a wide range of works on Philosophy.

The new curriculum being prepared by university authorities aims to reorientate the teaching of Philosophy, and more especially to bring it in line with changed conditions in the country.

INDUSTRY

Stepping up Fish and Salt Production

Special efforts are being made to bring about lasting improvement in the production and sale of fish which, apart from rice, forms the staple diet of the people.

To step up fish production, programmes of work for the fishing and salt manufacturing industries in the Irrawaddy Division were formulated by the Chairman of the People's Pearl and Fishing Industry Board, Vice-Chief of Staff Commodore Thaung Tin, during an inspection tour in consultation with the officials concerned in Bassein on July 28. Specifically, Commodore Thaung Tin discussed with them matters relating to salt, *ngapi* (fish paste) and dried fish manufacturing industries, as well as the fishing industry as a whole in the Irrawaddy Division. He also outlined measures for the stepping-up of fish and salt production and for ensuring uninterrupted supplies to the country at reasonable prices.

Expansion of fishery and salt industries in the Tenasserim Division also featured in the discussions. Commodore Thaung Tin had with Colonel Thaung Kyi, Commanding Officer of the South-East Command, and member of the Revolutionary Council, and other army and civil officers at Moulmein on July 31

during his tour of the Tenasserim. Commodore Thaung Tin later visited Kala Island in Mergui District with a view to set up a fishing training school on the island. He also discussed with members of the fishing industry in Mergui District various aspects of the problem relating to the fishing industry.

After his Tenasserim tour, Commodore Thaung Tin visited Pyapon in the Irrawaddy Division and together with the Commanding Officer of the South-West Command, Colonel Tin U, had talks with deep sea fishing workers in Pyapon district on fishing operations in the coastal area. Discussions were also held with local fishermen at Pyapon, Kalahteik, Bogale, Setsan, Kadonkani and several other villages engaged in the fishing industry.

The Commander also inspected the Government Fish Breeding Centre in Twante, Hanthawaddy District.

AGRICULTURE

Groundnut and Sesamum Cultivation

Weather conditions this season have been reported to be favourable for groundnut and sesamum in the areas visited by the Director-General of Agriculture, Colonel Min Thein, during his inspection tour of groundnut and sesamum plantations in Upper Burma.

On July 29, the Director-General of Agriculture visited Yenangyaung, Chauk, Kyaukpadaung, Taungtha, Myingyan and Natogyi Townships, and Mandalay where he inspected the groundnut and sesamum plantations at several villages, accompanied by the local peasants.

According to the peasants of Kyaukpadaung and Taungtha Townships, weather conditions this season have been exceptionally good. Added to this was the relative absence of agricultural pests so that the position regarding groundnut and sesamum cultivation is extremely good. The growers also expressed the view that the output of these crops for this season could be substantially higher than in the past.

During meetings with members of the District Security and Administrative Committee and officials of the People's Stores Corporation, the Union of Burma Agricultural Marketing Board, Land Records and Agricultural Departments at Mandalay and Sagaing on July 29 and 30, the Director-General of Agriculture laid

stress on the need for collection of actual data on the acreage under groundnut and sesamum cultivation, the purchase of these crops and the milling facilities required.

In the course of his inspection tour of sesamum and groundnut farms in Upper Burma, the Director-General of Agriculture also visited villages in Monywa and Shwebo Districts, as well as Meiktila and Pyinmana in Central Burma and discussed with the peasants and the officials concerned matters relating to groundnut and sesamum cultivation and the purchase of the crops.

FORESTS

Artificial Regeneration System

Under the reforestation programme of the Forest Department, a novel method of replenishing the forest reserves that were laid waste during the Second World War has been employed with success through a *Taungya* Artificial Regeneration system effective from June 1964.

The new system involves planting of seeds in nurseries and transplanting the seedlings later in the forest reserves. About five million teak and *pyinkado* trees have already been planted in this way in Insein, Tharrawaddy, Zigon, Prome, Toungoo, Yamethin, Pyinmana, Pegu, Arakan, Henzada, Bassein, Tavoy, Katha and Shwebo forest circles under this system.

Since the present system has been considered more advantageous than direct cultivation, nurseries have been established in Insein, Toungoo, Yamethin and Meiktila Forest Divisions. Plants from these nurseries will be sent to forest reserves in other districts for transplantation.

The artificial regeneration system entails the planting of trees six feet apart from one another. With a view to looking after the trees and also utilizing fully the land in the forest reserves, the Forest Department has permitted landless peasants to undertake *Taungya* cultivation of vegetable crops in the intervening spaces.

Good use has been made by the peasants of the land allotted them in the forest reserves by successfully cultivating a wide range of vegetables. In addition, they will be rewarded suitably by the Forest Department for looking after the seedlings in the forest reserves.



Fruit Farming In The Highlands

By THEIKPAN MYINT OO

QUALITY oranges, pears, apples and grapes are to be produced by the Settlement Villages at Namsang under an intensive Four-Year Plan to popularize orchard plantation in the Shan highlands by distributing choice species to the growers.

With increasing output of orchards in the Shan State, apples, pears, oranges and grapes will no longer be expensive fruits gracing the table of a

privileged few. They will become cheaply available to the working people as a common item of their diet.

Modern techniques of orchard growing have begun to appeal to the people of the area. These will educate them into adopting systematic fruit growing, weaning them away from their customary *taungya* cultivation, a wasteful practice which scarcely provides them with a living income.

Spraying of insecticides protects trees at the Namsang Orchard Nursery



Modern Techniques Introduced

Photos by U Ni

To cultivate quality fruit, the use of native species alone is ineffective. They must be cross-bred with foreign high grade species. The hybrids are then distributed to the fruit growers at the Namsang villages.

The source of fine grade fruit species for use by these villages is the No. 2 Working People's Settlement Camp Orchard Nursery at Namsang. To get an insight into the technique of breeding of fine fruit species,

our party visited the nursery. We watched fascinated as Lt. Robert Than Swe and a soldier assistant employed this technique of grafting. Using a sharp fruit knife, the soldier cut from a loose stalk a thin, rectangular strip of bark containing the bud which in plants is the central outlet of sap concentration.

This piece is the scion in horticultural terminology. The scion in this particular case is called the "eye" and the process is popularly known as "eye-grafting."

"Now we must make an incision in the tree which is to receive the eye," said Lt. Than Swe. The plant on which the graft is inserted is called the stock.

The soldier gripped a waist-high growing tree and slit two lines across, about four inches apart, corresponding to the length of the bark containing the eye. He then peeled the bark off the tree between the two marks and inserted the scion in its place.

In this manner are grafted tens of thousands of young pear and orange trees at the farm.

Time-saving Technique

In reality, we were no strangers to the art of plant grafting. Once, on our visit to the Working People's Agriculture School at Hmawbi, we saw Lt. Julius there grafting one variety of garden croton flower to another. By such medium, the fine strains of both species become combined in the grafted plant. In case of fruits, it makes them more eatable and tasty. For example, one species of mango may be fleshy but somewhat stringy and wanting in sweetness. Another has less flesh but is superlatively sweet and not stringy. When both species are grafted, the hybrid will be less stringy as well as luscious.

"We saw Lt. Julius use the stalks of those trees to be grafted together," I remarked to Lt. Than Swe. "How does that differ from grafting the eye to the stock?"

"Fundamentally, it is the same in character except for variations of the same art."

Still, I imagine grafting of stalks is a more arduous effort compared to eye-grafting. It entails handling of two whole plants and joining them together by gootying, as is termed the work of bandaging them with matting, fibre or other materials.

"As you see for yourselves, grafting of eyes is much quicker work than

the method you mentioned," explained the lieutenant. "In fact, it is more practical in cases like this where you have to deal with tens of thousands of trees."

The lieutenant spoke without pausing at his work. He and his assistant went around grafting eyes on tree after tree. Watching them working at this speed, walking fast from row to row of trees, I could

visualize the possibility of such grafting methods producing high grade crops from the vast acres of wild orange and citrus trees in the Shan State within the near future.

"We import different fine species of foreign orange, either as saplings or stalks of larger trees. When we graft the eyes from these plants to the local stock of orange or citrus, the

Pear trees enhanced by the eye-grafting process flourish at the Nursery





Lt. Than Swe outlines to the author advantages of the eye-grafting technique

Quality crops spring from grafting of local lemon with foreign orange



result is marvellous," said the lieutenant. "The new tree retains the natural vigour of the wild variety and also has the fine taste of the foreign fruit."

As he spoke, Lt. Than Swe pointed to the rows of grafted orange trees with a joyful flourish of his arms. His joy was justified. Eye-grafting is highly economical as it obviates the necessity for importing whole trees at considerable cost for propagation purpose.

Each imported stalk of orange contains many eyes, of which only one is required to be grafted on to a local wild orange or citrus tree. So out of just one imported stalk could spring many fine quality trees from among the wild varieties.

"When we have grafted the eyes of the 3,100 imported orange we have on to local stock, we hope to get 60,000 superior grade trees," said the lieutenant.

As for the wild orange trees needed as stock to the foreign scion, their supply is virtually inexhaustible in the Shan State.

The eye-grafting technique used at the Namsang nursery is not confined to orange. It is also applied to pear, apple and vine. Of foreign plants indented, the nursery has to date received 3,200 trees of apple, 650 of vine and 950 of pear.

Of the vine, the two varieties imported for the nursery—the sour which abroad is used for distilling wine and the sweet whose grapes make delightful eating—are grafted together to produce primarily sweet grapes.

Hundredfold Marvel

"Of the apples and pears, eyes of world-famous species like the 'Tropical Beauty' are imported," said the lieutenant. "As stock for the pear we have the *Taungwe-bin*, a native fruit tree of the same family which is luxuriant in this region. Using only 950 foreign pear stalks, we have raised 90,000 quality trees," he added.

"So far we have grafted pear eyes on to 3,000 local trees," revealed Lt. Than Swe, fanning out both arms in an expansive gesture to signify the anticipated prolific growth of apple and pear trees in the region.

"But in apple grafting, unlike in the case of pear, we have one handicap, which, I hope, will be only temporary," he said. "For apple grafting we have to use imported plants as stock, ordering them from Israel,

Japan, China and Australia. We are however experimenting with *pinzeinbin*, a local fruit species, for use as stock. Since such trees are also plentiful around these parts, you can realize how advantageous it would be for us if we succeed."

The service being rendered by the nursery is in implementation of the Four-Year Plan for expansion and improvement of fruit growing in the Shan State. Since June this year, the nursery has begun distribution of plants to the Settlement Villages, up to Village No. 6.

Each villager is allotted 3 acres for fruit cultivation, reapportioned into 1 acre for apple, 1 acre for orange, .75 acre for pear and .25 acre for vine. As nuclei for propagation, each villager is to be given 160 plants of apple, 160 of orange, 120 of pear and 108 of vine.

Of these plants, orange will be completely distributed this year and apple and pear in the following year.

Orchard growing project is not designed solely for the benefit of the settlement co-operative villages for retired servicemen at Namsang. Systematic cultivation of fruit has also captured the interest and fired the enthusiasm of Yini, Yingya, Shan and other indigenous peasants who come into constant contact with the families of the ex-servicemen.



Systematic orchard growing will soon be practised by such Union nationals in their extensive area of over 100,000 acres

Before long, these peasants will learn to adopt scientific fruit cultivation. They will give up their present wasteful practice of *taungya* cultivation. They have all along been accustomed to felling or burning trees along mountain slopes to clear a patch for cultivation. After every ounce of fertility is exhausted from the soil, they move on to another area, re-

peating the same process. Such cultivation has never been paying for them as well. Fruit growing, as an alternative, will secure them a lucrative occupation.

Moreover, the success of the Four-Year Plan will make Burma self-sufficient in those kinds of fruits liked by the public but which so far are generally beyond its reach as an imported luxury.

General view of the Namsang Orchard Nursery





Southern part of the fort facing the Irrawaddy River

By MIN AUNG (Sagaing)

Photos by U Ohn Gaing

A Historical Monument Under Renovation By The Union Culture Ministry

AT Sagaing, in between the Divisional Commissioner's Office and the Asaykhan (Servants) Quarter and overlooking the Irrawaddy River is an old fort whose walls are now in a dilapidated condition. It was from here that the Burmese put up a last-ditch resistance against the British forces in the Third Anglo-Burmese War (1885-1886).

Until recently, the site was densely covered with trees and thickets and practically inaccessible to tourists and researchers. But now, thanks to the Revolutionary Government's adoption of a vigorous plan to effectively preserve for posterity objects of historical and cultural value in the country, the Archaeological Department under the aegis of the Union Culture Ministry is taking necessary measures to renovate the old fort. As a first step towards this end, the Minister for Union Culture, Colonel Saw Myint, inspected the site last

April and following his visit, the thick vegetation in and around the fort has been cleared, bringing out into bold relief the characteristic features of an old Burmese architectural work of national defence—an edifice for the people to remember with patriotic pride the valiant, heroic resistance offered by their forbears against the enemy in the past.

Because of its close proximity to the Asaykhan Quarter, this old garrison is now commonly known as the Asaykhan Fort to the local people.

The fort is shaped roughly like a "U" with massive walls—nine feet high, two feet thick, 450 feet long in east-west direction and 250 feet wide in south-north direction.

On the southern side is a crescent-shaped rampart or earthwork reinforced by two layers of brick walls to



Union Culture Minister Colonel Saw Myint and party inspecting the old fort

withstand assault by the enemy's gunboats from the river. The southern wall has no battlement but the rampart, which resembles a hillock, could have housed cannons to fire at the enemy's boats.

About half of the western side of the fort was filled with earth to the brim of the wall. The other half of the wall, up to the north-western corner, has apertures spaced at regular intervals for pointing guns through.

The northern wall also has similar gun-apertures right up to the eastern corner. In the centre of this wall is the main gateway which is over 17 feet wide. About 22 feet on either side of the gateway, the wall juts out to form two bastions, each 21 feet wide and 65 feet long. These have also apertures on all sides to enable the defenders to shoot at the enemy approaching from any direction.

Although there ought to be a fire-preventing structure close to this main gate, there is now no such structure, nor its base can be traced. About 50 years ago, at the outbreak of World War I, a company of the colonial British Sappers and Miners used to camp at this fort, and it was presumed that they had removed this structure for easier movement through the gateway.

To the south of this main gate, inside the fort, is a hollow ground. This is presumed to be the site of an old tank, and steps are being taken to trace its brickwork.

On the eastern wall, too, there are apertures for artillerymen starting from the northeast corner to the

posterior gate which is 10 feet wide and extends to the south-east corner.

Inside the fort to the south of this gate, is the command post which is contiguous to the southern rampart. This dug out is 14 feet 9 inches square and 6 feet 4½ inches high. It has two compartments, the inner one being brick-roofed. The whole shelter is protected by brick walls measuring 27 feet 10 inches long, 21 feet 1½ inches wide, 6½ feet high and 2 feet thick.

The gun-apertures in the walls are shoulder-high and roughly oblong in shape with the sides widening out-

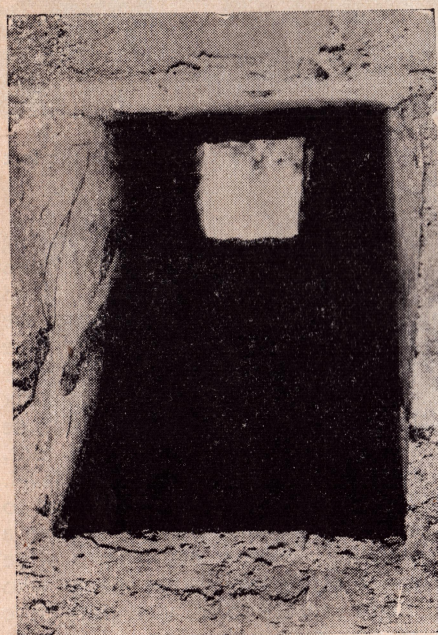
wards like those of a paddy-measuring receptacle. On the inside the holes are eight inches long and six inches wide whereas on the outside they are one foot and four inches long and one foot and two inches wide. The vertical sides broaden out about six inches each way, and the bottom side slopes downwards about a foot. However, the top edges are level. The apertures are so designed as to enable the gunners to shoot from a standing position and from a wide range of angles at the enemy who might venture to advance quite close to the garrison.

A section of the fort wall now in dilapidation





(Top) Site of the old dock on the east of fort



(Middle) An aperture in fort wall for pointing gun through



(Below) Graveyard of Surgeon Heath of the British Army who was killed in action during the Third Anglo-Burmese War

History

The Sagaing Fort was built in 1238 Burmese Era (1876 A. D.) under the supervision of Daingwunmin, Kathaymyinwun and an Italian marine commodore in the service of King Thibaw, the last of the monarchs of the Konbaung Dynasty.

It was said that the Italian commodore was executed on account of the absence of coverts and apertures for guns in the southern part of the fort, a factor considered favourable to the enemy with whom he was believed to be in collusion. But this assertion could hardly be valid, for as a matter of fact the fort was built in accordance with the accepted engineering principles of those days. The more likely reason for the commodore's execution was that, after the Minhla battle, he was caught in possession of highly important documents which showed that he was in secret communication with the enemy and therefore condemned as a spy.

Old Dock

Close to the fort on the eastern side is an old dock. Believed to have been constructed about the same time as the fort, this relic is 165 feet wide at the southern entrance and 60 feet wide at the northern end. The brickwork shows that it used to have nine graduated levels with a maximum depth of 20 feet.

Boh Nyo Oo

In writing about the Sagaing Fort, the heroic and daring exploits of Boh Nyo Oo against the invaders during the Third Anglo-Burmese War merit special mention. The British had captured Sagaing by December 1885. But very soon after the occupation, Boh Nyo Oo, a local resistance leader, mobilized a 500-strong patriotic force armed with only swords and spears, stormed the fort and dislodged the enemy troops who fled to their gunboat moored at the nearby dock. Ignoring the whizzing bullets and mortar shells fired by the enemy side, the dauntless Boh Nyo Oo, astride an equally dauntless mare named Nan Kyawt, rode up alone to the boat and hacked down the enemy right and left. As a result, the British suffered many casualties. Notable among them was a surgeon whose grave can still be seen under a shady *thitsint* tree near the old dock. Engraved on the tombstone are these words:

"Surgn: J. Heath, Medical Staff. Aged 29 years. Killed at Sagaing while endeavouring to rescue a comrade on 9th January 1886."

UN Secretary-General Visits Homeland



U Thant

ONE of Burma's illustrious sons abroad, UN Secretary-General U Thant, arrived in Rangoon on July 25 for a 3-day visit to his home country at the invitation of the Revolutionary Government.

This was U Thant's first visit to Burma since he became the top executive of the world organization on November 30, 1962.

During his 3-day stay in Rangoon, U Thant went through a crowded programme of visits and receptions. Because of pressing work at the United Nations, the UN Secretary-General has not for the past three years been able to find time to visit his homeland—to see his 81-year-old mother, Daw Nan Thaug, and even to attend the funeral of his son, Tin Maung Thant, who died in an

accident in Rangoon a couple of years ago.

Shortly after his arrival, U Thant called on Foreign Minister U Thi Han at the Foreign Office, and later, on General Ne Win, Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, at the State House. He also visited the Martyrs' Mausoleum and laid a wreath at the tomb of Bogyoke Aung San. In the evening, he was guest of honour at a dinner given by the Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, General Ne Win, and Madame Ne Win at the State House.

During his short visit to Burma, U Thant took occasion to offer 'soon' (meals) to 60 members of the Sangha at Payagyi Kyaungtaik (monastery) in Rangoon. He also called at the residence of the late Thakin Kodaw

Hmaing to express sympathy with members of the bereaved family, visited the graveyard of his son, Tin Maung Thant, and attended a dinner given by the administrative committee and the teaching staff of the Myoma High School.

The UN Secretary-General spent the last day of his visit to Burma (July 27) visiting the Shwedagon Pagoda and the UN offices, and meeting representatives of the Burmese Press.

Before leaving for Moscow on the next lap of his tour, U Thant attended a dinner given in his honour by Foreign Minister U Thi Han at the Kanbawza Hotel.

The UN Secretary-General left Rangoon on July 28 at 0-30 a.m.

OFFERING MEALS TO MONKS: U Thant and mother pour libation after offering morning meals to 60 Buddhist monks at Payagyi Kyaungtaik (Monastery) in Rangoon



U Thant In Rangoon



AT STATE HOUSE DINNER : General Ne Win greets U Thant

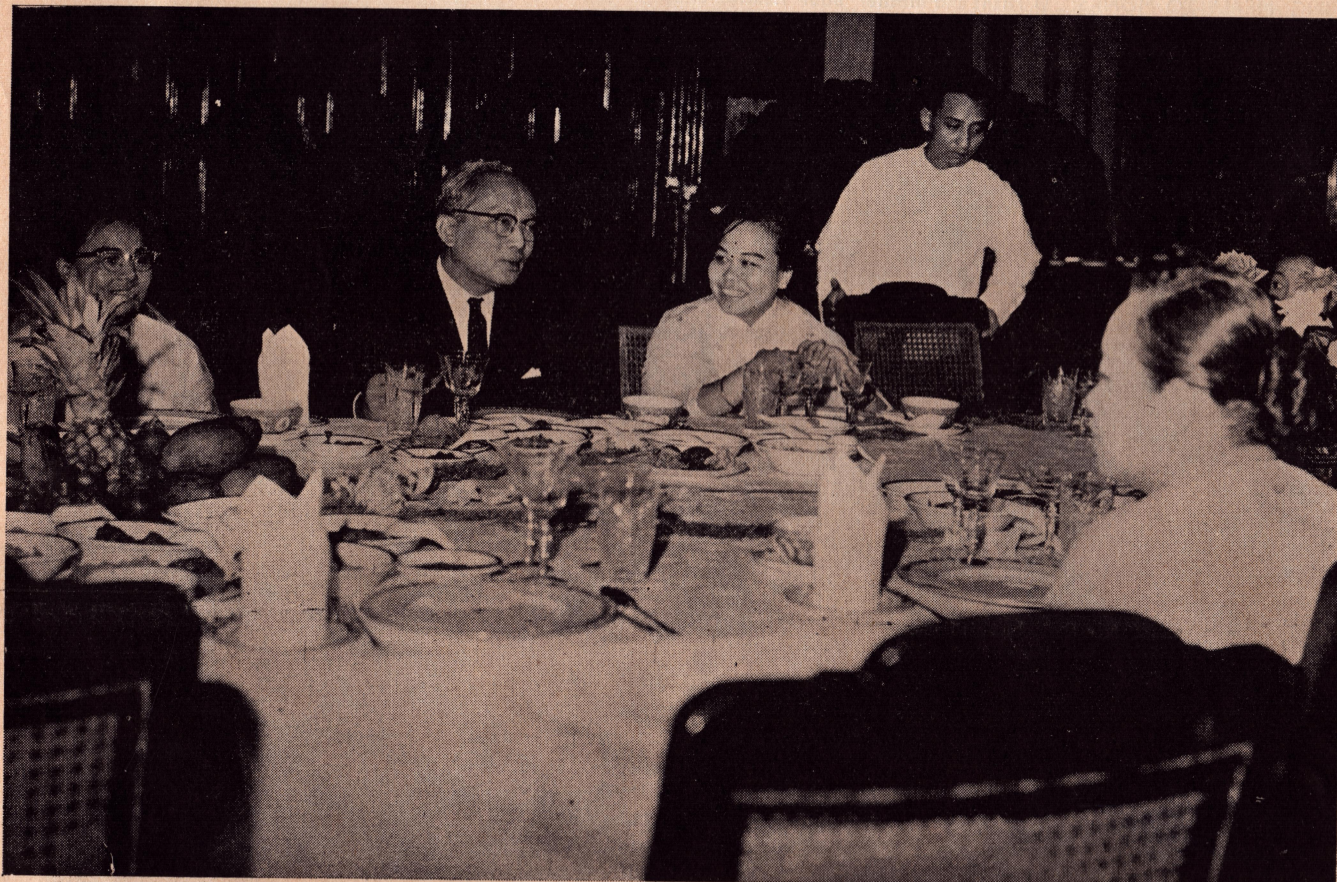


U Thant being entertained to a programme of classical and variety dances by artistes of the Ministry of Union Culture and the Burma Broadcasting Service



MOTHER AND SON : U Thant walks hand in hand with his 81-year-old mother on arrival at Rangoon Airport

U Thant with Madame Ne Win and other guests at dinner



AT FOREIGN MINISTER'S DINNER : U Thant exchanges pleasantries with Revolutionary Council members, Colonel Khin Nyo, Colonel Than Sein, Colonel S. Myint and Colonel Ba Ni at dinner given in his honour by Foreign Minister U Thi Han



U Thant In Rangoon

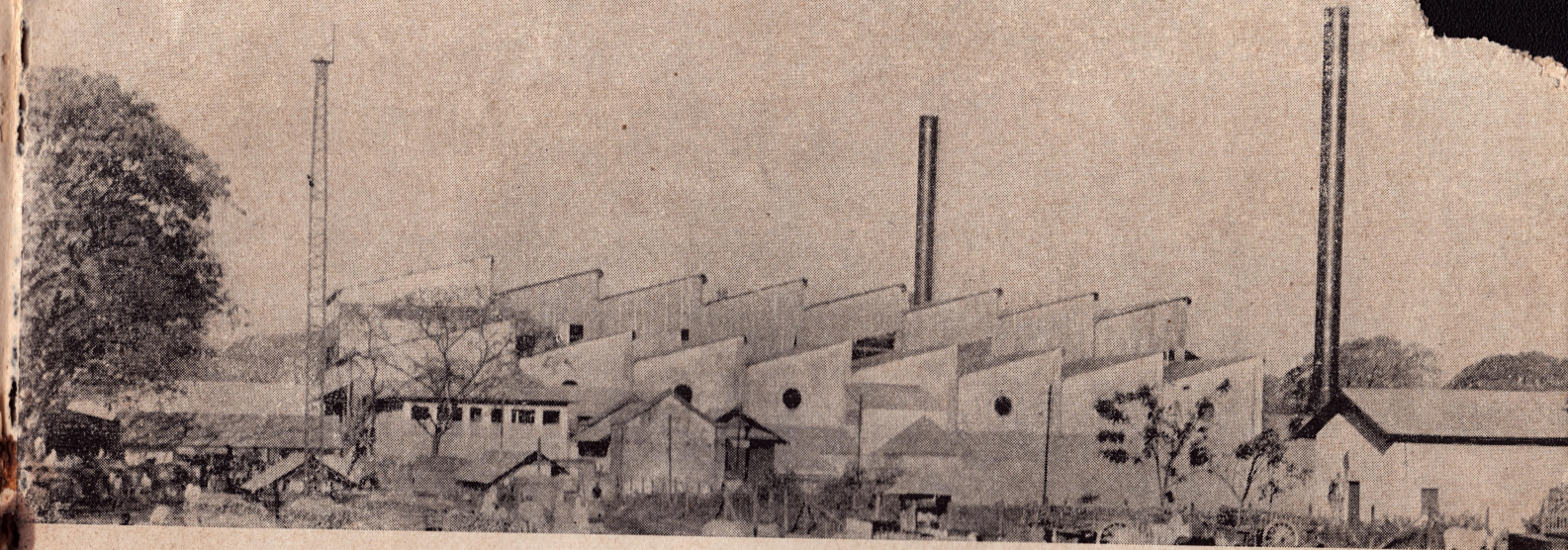


AT MARTYRS' MAUSOLEUM: U Thant lays a wreath and pays tribute to Bogyoke Aung San and other fallen leaders



TOUCHING SCENE: The UN Secretary-General visits the graveyard of his son, Tin Maung Thant

AT PAGODA: U Thant visits the Shwedagon Pagoda with his mother, daughter and relatives



The Sugar Mill at Zeyawaddy has a crushing capacity of 2,500 tons of cane per day

Sugar Production In Burma

By MAUNG TUN THU

SUSTAINED efforts are being made by the Revolutionary Government to achieve self-sufficiency in sugar, an important food item in the country, the demand for which has far exceeded the supply in the past, and all avenues for expanding the plantation of sugarcane are being explored to the maximum extent.

Visiting the Zeyawaddy Sugar Mill in Toungoo district a few months ago, I had the opportunity of studying at close quarters the joint efforts being put forth by the workers and the management of the mill to boost the production of sugar.

It was at nightfall that we visited the sugar mill which was

Efforts To Step Up Sugar Cane Cultivation

Photos By U Mya

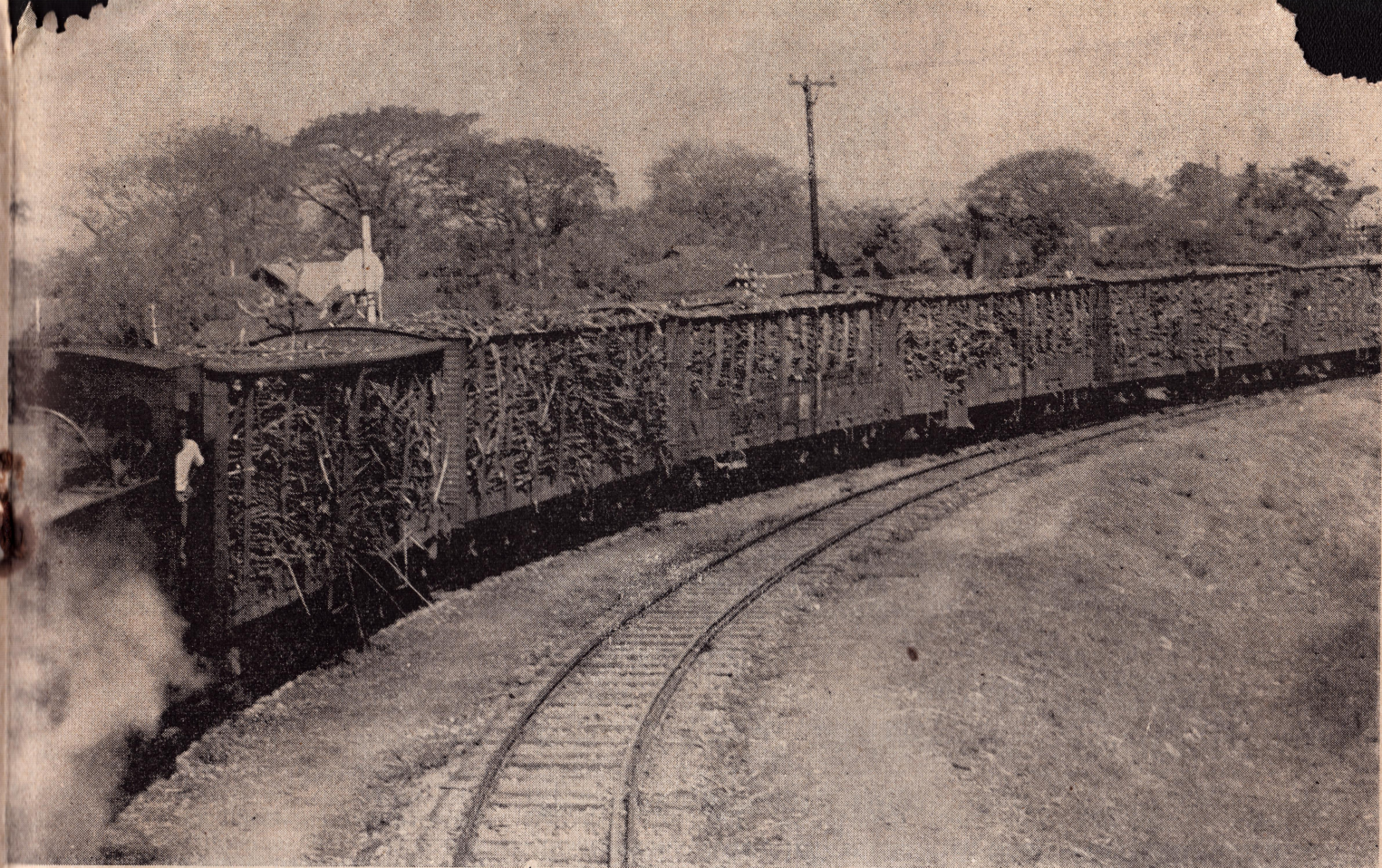
brilliantly lit but was conspicuous by the absence of the thunderous roar of great machines at work. Instead, we heard only the steady whirr of a smoothly run machine in a corner. On closer look, we guessed it to be a mechanical conveyor belt that was silently but efficiently doing its work of sending down large quantities of sugar canes that were

Workers cutting sugar cane in a plantation. The Revolutionary Government helps the cane growers to adopt new methods of cultivation.





Sugar cane is transported to the mill by bullock carts



from plantations around the town and by rail from places afar

fed on to it by another mechanical device that could hold hundreds of sugar canes in its gigantic grip and discharge them down the belt. We walked towards a sort of slope where the loading of sugar canes was going on. To our surprise, we saw hundreds of bullock carts fully laden with sugar canes. Each cartman was backing his cart towards the huge grip that seized hundreds of cane at a time and unloaded the carts one after another. Even at that time of the night we could see at least two hundred carts all ready to discharge their load. That was the sort of job that sugar cane growing farmers had in the sugar cane season.

Curiosity getting the better of him, photographer U Mya turned towards the Assistant Manager standing near us, and asked, "Do these sugar cane carts come in and discharge their loads the night through?"

The Assistant Manager very obligingly explained, "Yes, it is so. We get sugar cane in two ways, by train and by bullock carts. Those grown in faraway places like Pyu, Toungoo and Pegu are brought here by train. And bullock carts are used to bring in sugar cane grown in plantations around Zeyawaddy. We always have a good supply of sugar cane when the mill is working. Day and night,

sugar cane is brought into the mill. You have seen about two hundred carts now, but after midnight there will be more of them, and the next morning more and more carts will be coming in fully laden with sugar cane. There may be about three hundred or four hundred carts coming in at any time."

The Assistant Manager proceeded to enlighten us on the working of the mill.

"Sugar mills are unlike other types of mills and factories," he explained. "They are working periodically. For instance, from about the middle of November when sugar canes first appear, the mill has to be worked. If sugar canes are not in short supply, the mills go on working even up to the end of May and the beginning of June. Approximately, the sugar cane season lasts from five to six months. And it means that sugar mills have to be working for at least five or six months a year."

Another point of interest we learned from him was that it was best to use sugar cane in its season, because out-of-season cane had a poor yield of juice and it means less sugar. The best time for milling sugarcane is in January, February and up to March. In February sugar canes are at their best because by then they have fully matured and are ripe for processing.

We further learnt that it was for this reason that whenever sugar milling plants began to function they had to be prepared to be run for twenty-four hours at a stretch. In the Zeyawaddy Sugar Mill, workers do their job in three shifts, each shift putting in eight hours a day.

We walked along the mill and watched the chutes down which sugar canes were thrown by the conveyor belts and then we saw the huge slicing machines that were seemingly cutting and chewing up the sugar canes into pieces as they were thrown into its grip. The juice extracted from the cut and crushed sugar canes was then passed through huge pipes. At that stage the process of making sugar had begun. Purification of the juice extracted from the canes would follow and the sludge got after purification forms a very good fertilizer which is distributed free among sugar cane growers. Bagasse or exhausted canes are thrown out by another mechanical device and these are used as fuel in the furnaces that work the plant. After a long process, crystallisation of sugar is seen and finally sugar is produced.

"Sugar mills unlike other mills or factories turn out finished products almost immediately. The moment sugar canes are put in at one

end sugar is formed at the other end," the Assistant Manager told us as he took a handful of processed white sugar and showed us.

Our attention was then drawn to a place where many sugar bags were piled up. There were groups of workers, some putting in the processed sugar in the bags, another group weighing the sugar and still another group of workers carried the bags of sugar to the goods wagons in the siding of the mill. The workers presented an encouraging sight. It was midnight and though they were sweating and toiling at that unearthly hour they showed no signs of tiredness for they carried on their work happily singing their favourite songs.

Still wide-awake at that time of the night, we left the mill and together with U Kyaw, one of the senior mill hands and U Hla Ngwe, the Assistant Manager of the mill, we walked towards the place where bullock carts were unloading sugar cane.

Farmer U Sein Bu of Le-Ain-Su village in Zeyawaddy subdivision, with his nephew, Maung Tun Yin, welcomed us.

U Hla Ngwe, the Assistant Manager, took up the thread of the conversation we had with him at the mill.

"Before the out-break of the Second World War, the number of

sugar consumers was not too great. But in ten years from 1931 to 1940 the amount of sugar consumed in Burma was at an annual average of 34,000 tons. The number of sugar consumers, however, has steadily increased today. At a rough estimate, we would require about 70,000 tons of sugar for consumption each year, and I'm convinced that the number of sugar consumers will go on increasing," he told us.

He was right. I recalled reading a news report some time ago that the number of sugar-consuming people was increasing just as fast as the world population. I also understood that presently sugar has become as much a daily necessity as rice and salt for Burma.

"In our country we have four sugar mills," the Assistant Manager continued to explain to us. "They are at Zeyawaddy, Pyinmana, Namti and Sahmaw. There are two plants at Zeyawaddy and these can process 2,500 tons of sugar cane daily. However, we do not work the plants at full pressure in order to avoid heavy strain on them and so the mill is worked to produce only about 2,200 tons daily. During the sugar cane season in 1961-62 the plant in Zeyawaddy processed over 260,000 tons of sugar cane and turned out 250,000 bags of sugar. Calculating in

terms of tons, the mill produced 24,900 tons."

The Assistant Manager then went on to tell us about the quantity of sugar needed and the production of sugar by the mills in the country. Zeyawaddy turned out 25,000 tons of sugar in 1962-63, Pyinmana produced 22,000 tons, the Namti mill in Myitkyina District, 15,000 tons. The Sahmaw mill which had recently been set up was in a trial stage and could turn out only 37 tons for a start. The combined production of the three big mills in 1962-63 was about 62,000 tons."

"Then it means the target of self-sufficiency in sugar for the whole country is about reached," I exclaimed excitedly.

"That's right. It's our main objective. Under the Revolutionary Government, we study the full working capacity of the mills and we make it our constant endeavour to ensure self-sufficiency in sugar throughout the Union of Burma. Once this self-sufficiency is achieved, a tremendous drain on our foreign exchange reserves spent on the import of sugar can be checked. . ."

However, before the Assistant Manager could finish his sentence, U Kyaw, one of the senior mill hands who had been silent all this while,

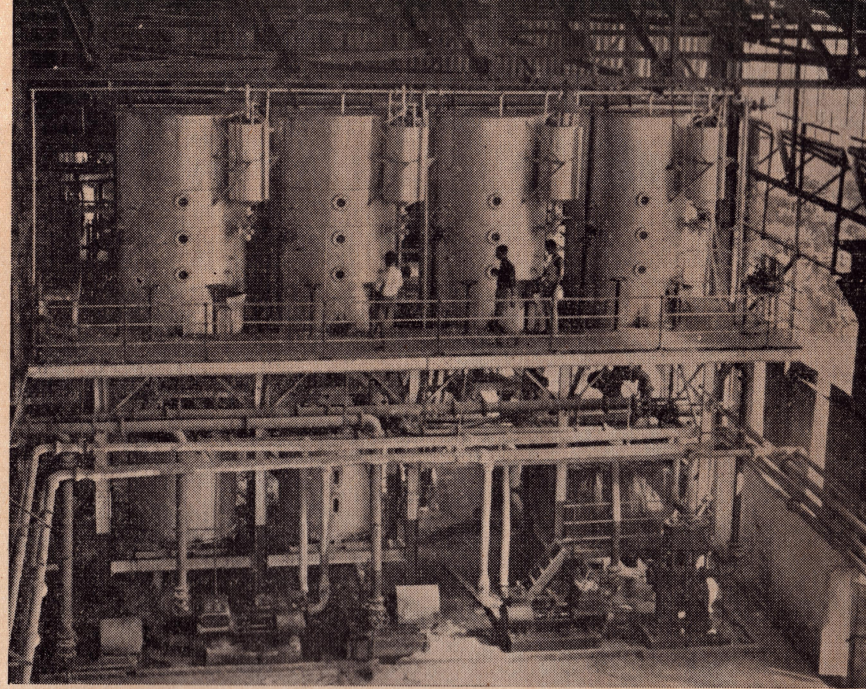
listening to the most interesting talk given by the Assistant Manager, began to tell us about the cultivation of sugar cane.

In the past the sugar mills were ordered to be worked without an adequate supply of sugar canes and there was no system about the supply of sugar canes to the mills. There might have been some projects to see that sugar canes were not in short supply for the mills, but it was regrettable that those projects, if there were any, had never been properly implemented, and there had been no persons to do the job of running the mill in the proper way and in a sincere and responsible manner.

The cultivation of sugar cane involved some expenditure. However, if farmers were assured of regular and prompt payment for their crops, they would undoubtedly go all out to produce more crops every year.

"To tell you the truth, there had never been a proper system in the past. What with middle-man's profits and so on, sugar cane growers had never been happy," put in Maung Tun Yin of Le-Ain-Su Village.

Farmer U Sein Bu as a veteran grower of sugar cane then began to explain to us that the Revolutionary Government's method is most systematic and encouraging to all sugar cane growers. For instance, in the previous year cultivation loans had been very fairly and regularly distributed among all the growers directly. But what the growers of



Scene inside the Zeyawaddy Mill

sugar cane most appreciated was the help given by the Government to grow sugar cane in the most systematic manner. U Sein Bu told us that in his district, brown sugar cane used to be grown. But it was found that brown sugar cane had many disadvantages. They could not be stored for long and they produced very little amount of juice, which means that less sugar is produced from such kind of sugar cane. But by growing the yellow variety of sugar cane supplied by A. R. D. C. the sugar cane growers had been able to produce a better quality crop of sugar canes each year.

Maung Tun Yin seemed to be very much enthusiastic about the govern-

A cane planter unloading his produce at the mill.



ment's system of purchasing sugar cane, the prompt payment of money, etc. He could not help referring to such matters again and again. The new system of the Revolutionary Government provided for rural agricultural and multi-purpose co-operatives to negotiate directly with the purchase departments of the sugar mills. In other words, the system relegated the responsibility of procuring and buying of sugar cane to the rural organisations.

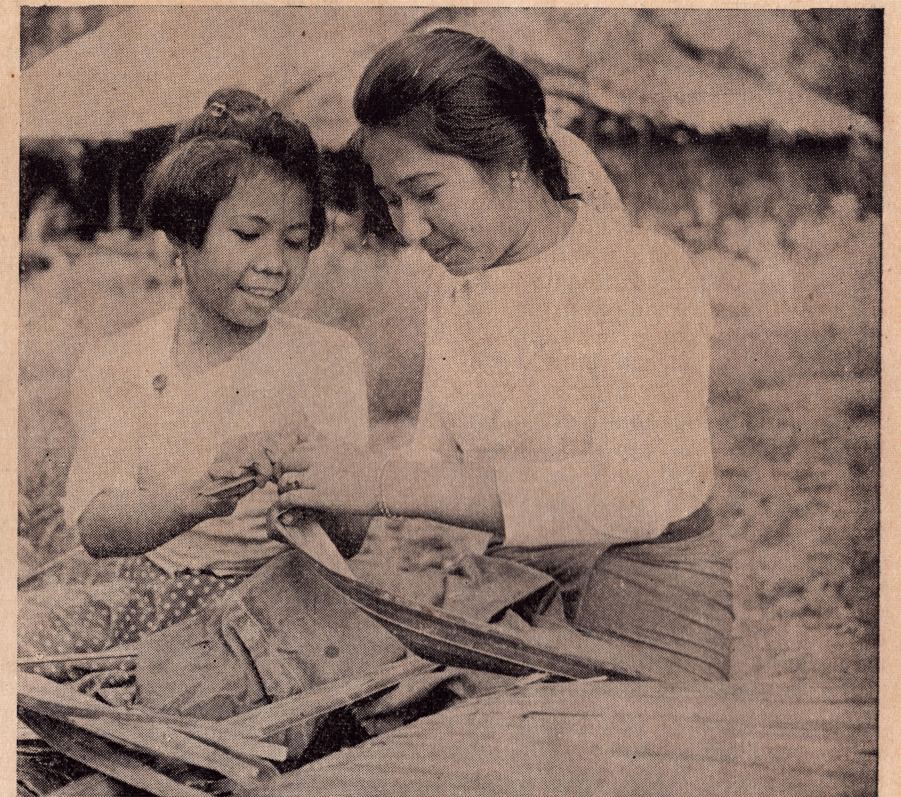
As soon as the sugar cane purchasing department and the growers came to certain terms, such as the growers agreeing to supply the required quantity of sugar canes, advance payment of 20 per cent of the estimated price of the yield would be paid promptly. After that, the agricultural and multipurpose co-operatives would get in touch with individual sugar cane growers, and on arriving at an agreement between them for the supply of sugar cane, the growers would be paid half the amount of money agreed upon for the crops. Such system removed all anxieties that the growers had as to whether their crops would be purchased and paid for by the Government promptly.

That was seemingly what Maung Tun Yin had in mind, and we fully agreed with him.

With systematic growing of sugar canes throughout the country and with all the four mills working, the Government's objective of ensuring self-sufficiency in sugar throughout the Union of Burma can be achieved. Our visit to the mill was most profitable. What we heard from those running the mill in Zeyawaddy was most encouraging. And as we got up from that place we found that it was three o'clock in the morning.

Learning Village Life At First Hand

By SHWE BOH
Photos by U San Win



A High School co-ed learns threading of dhani leaves on to a bamboo stick

THE slender tops of the rice seedlings rose and fell in the breeze like green waves.

The travellers walked in Indian file along the bunds that held the water in the paddy fields. The morning sun shone feebly behind the gray Monsoon clouds that stretched from horizon to horizon.

It was not hot but little beads of perspiration had already begun to appear on the necks of the travellers, some twenty five students from Thingangyun State High School led by six teachers. It was not far to Sincheyar village, their destination, but the journey on foot along the twisting bunds seemed never-ending.

But the young people were full of merriment. One started an old ditty about rural life and then stopped. A teacher asked him to go on. The student said that it was all he knew. A titter from the girls, and loud guffaws from the boys, but a thump on the head from the lady teacher's umbrella for the offender.

A body of water laid athwart their way. One student said, "I suppose we will have to cross that pond." Another took him to task, "That's

not a pond. It's a yo, a water channel, you jungle fellow." A third commented, "If he is a jungle fellow he should be able to tell a yo from a pond. Born in Rangoon, raised in buses off the good earth, that's him."

The party did have to cross the yo. The travellers had to raise high their longyis and tread knee deep in water, sinking a little with each step in the

soft mud floor of the yo, their bodies swaying from side to side trying to keep balance. Huge, ugly leeches, sensing blood, swam towards the students. There were screams of fright from the girls.

One of the girls said, "I marvel at the students who walk everyday to school at Thingangyun through this." She had begun to appreciate how

Boys learn for themselves that uprooting of paddy seedlings is strenuous work



much education must mean to such people.

The group arrived finally at Sincheyar at 10 a. m. Headman U Tun Sein and village elders greeted them warmly. A teacher explained the reason for the visit. He said, "Times have changed and we have come to realise that the true revolution lies in improving the life of our farmers in our villages. We must learn at first hand the life of our village people to change our thinking. This is why we from the Thingangyun State High School have come here today."

"In summer you can drive right up to the village but now.....", the Headman indicated with his hand the muddy ground exposed by the receding tide. Sincheyar Village lies on Pegu River and thrives on production of rice, *dhani*, and fish. There were about 170 houses, 3,200 acres of paddy land, and 8,000 acres of *dhani* land. Being on the river, the village also does some commercial fishing.

"Hey, be careful. Don't plant one or two seedlings and tread on one or two acres of crop," a teacher warned. The students were learning to uproot the rice seedlings and transplant them in Daw Ma Nyun's field. The good-natured lady said, "It's all right. Let the children do what they want. They can't spoil much."

Pulling up young rice plants meant dislodging them with both hands. Clods of earth usually came up with the roots.

"Here, child, you pull the plant like this and rub off the mud like this with one hand. In some places they hit the root against the leg and get the mud off."

"There, little girl. You have to hitch up your longyi like this when you work in the field." The elderly woman working in the field did not seem to be too patient with the school girls who, scared of leeches, were reluctant to show their legs.

Daw Ma Nyun taught the young people how to hold, separate and plant the seedlings. She and her companion who was working by her side seemed happy to show visitors how to transplant rice.

"Auntie, how many baskets does an acre yield?"

"About 25 baskets on the average." This answer was noted down by teacher and student alike.

It was time to move on. The visitors got into boats to look at the *dhani* trees sticking up their palm-like fronds from the muddy banks of Pegu River. The trunkless nipa palms lined the banks all the way to Kyisu, Maso, and Thayetpinchaung Villages at the mouth of the river.



The young village girl is amused at the way a High School girl threads *dhani* leaves

Dhani land covers a vast acreage around Sincheyar Village



For some of the students it is the first time in their lives to see the *dhani* palm

The boats stopped at one point. The visitors got out and standing ankle-deep in the mud looked at the way the *dhani* fruit clustered from the tree, and how the *dhani* sap was tapped to make an alcoholic drink.

"I suppose over there the mud must be deeper," said someone.

"You should come and see us when we plant the seeds," an elderly villager said. "We have to go hip deep and press the *dhani* seeds into the mud with our bare feet."

The students had all seen *dhani* roofs but until they saw how the dried leaves were threaded onto a bamboo stick they did not know how painstaking the work was.

They saw the work being done at a house. During summer *dhani* roofing materials were made in specially erected large huts. However, during the rains, the materials were made from discarded inferior leaves left over from the summer. This was done just to keep busy. When work was brisk, experienced hands came from Khalaukchaik, Thabyegon, Lahayet and other Hlaing River Villages. Now five-to-ten-year-old school children were doing the work in their spare time. They were young but very skilled. By small, deft hands, the spearlike leaves were threaded evenly, one leaf overlapping another.

"How much do you get for *dhani*?", the students asked of a housewife.

Agriculture and Multi-purpose Co-operative. The village was prosperous but had poor roads and poor sanitation.

"When we next visit a village we will do something good in that village," said teachers U Thein Nyun and U Tun Kyaing.

One day was not sufficient to study Sincheyar Village and the life of the villagers. However, the young students had seen enough to make them think.

A girl said, "This has been my most adventurous day."

A boy commented, "This is nothing. We have to go a long way yet. This is just a beginning for us."

Looking back at Sincheyar, another girl mused, "We make so much of this short visit. What will we say if we have to struggle for a living in the mud like these people?"

The visit to Sincheyar had been worth it if all the students felt for the village people as this girl did.

These students have now obtained an overall picture of the life of the working people to full advantage. The knowledge thus gained is priceless as an essential factor in the building of socialism in the country. The class-room education complemented by practical studies on the actual living conditions of the common man will go a long way towards enriching the knowledge of students about life all around them.

Paddy transplanting women of the village give a practical demonstration of their work to school girls



OZI SONGS

ယမင်းဟန်ရုပ်သွင်
ယမင်းဟန်ရုပ်သွင်
မ-မူရာသန်းတူလှိုင်
သူသူဇာမှန်းဆပုံဘင်
ရွှေကေသီကျော့
ကျော့ပိတ်နန်းမင်။ ။

ဒို့တောရွာ၊ ဒို့တောရွာ-
တောခလေးဒို့တောရွာ
ဒို့တောရွာမှာကွယ်- သာဓမာ
ပျိုမဒို့တောရွာချော
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အပြောလွန်ချိုသာ။ ။

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ပဒုမ္မာဆင်းသီဂီ
ခြည်သေးလို့ ချားမလယ်
ငယ်ပါသေးလို့ နားမလယ်။ ။

Featured like a yamin doll,
Infinite variety!
Celestial Thuza come to earth
Tresses gleaming like to be
The sheen of the wing-case
Of the bumble bee.

Our rural village,
Our rura ways,
Every prospect pleases.
Pretty maids, sweet spoken,
Nature's simple heart betoken.

Thin jacket, sweet face,
Smilingly he takes my hand.
Beautiful, like a naiad says he.
Yarn too thin to turn the winding
wheel;
Maid too young to understand.

Translated by 'K'

* OZI, literally "Pot Drum" is not really a pot like the tabla. Perhaps its shape, not far removed from the *ညောင်ရေအိတ်* Kalasa Pot, inverted, suggested its name. As a member of the Burmese folk drums it impartially roams the villages as well as the towns on pleasure bent and full of gusto. With its boon-companions the bamboo flute and clappers it may be trusted to go off on a spree of merry tunes and rapid rhythm such as to make one's limbs itch to dance.

Diary Events

July 1964

25. The Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, General Ne Win appoints Colonel Kyaw Soe as a member of the Disciplinary Committee of the Burma Socialist Programme Party effective from July 18.

The Union Cultural Council draws up a scheme for extending financial aid to members of the Theatrical Council.

General and Madame Ne Win entertain U Thant, the visiting Secretary General of the United Nations to dinner at the State House in Rangoon.

27. The Chairman of the Revolutionary Council and Chief of Staff of the Defence Services General Ne Win inaugurates the first in-service educational course organised by the Defence Ministry in Rangoon.

The Ceylonese Ambassador to Burma, Mr. Vincent Charles Jayasuriya

The Rumanian Ambassador to Burma presenting credentials to the Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, General Ne Win

quarters of the South-West Command.

28. Commodore Thaug Tin, Vice Chief of Staff (Navy) and Chairman of the People's Pearl and Fishing Board, formulates programmes of work for the fishing and salt manufacturing industries in the Irrawaddy Division.

UN Secretary-General U Thant leaves Rangoon by air for the Soviet Union after a three-day visit.

31. Commodore Thaug Tin, Chairman of the People's Pearl and Fishing Board visits Kalagyun in Mergui

Sein Win, Revolutionary Council member and Commanding Officer of the Central Command, calls for exemplary behaviour among personnel of the Defence Services.

Commodore Thaug Tin, together with Colonel Tin U, Commanding Officer of the South West Command, confers with deep sea fishing workers in Pyapon district on fishing operations in the coastal area.

Colonel Min Thein, Director-General of Agriculture, today inspects the groundnut and sesamum crops being cultivated on experimental basis at the agricultural farm in Mahlaing.

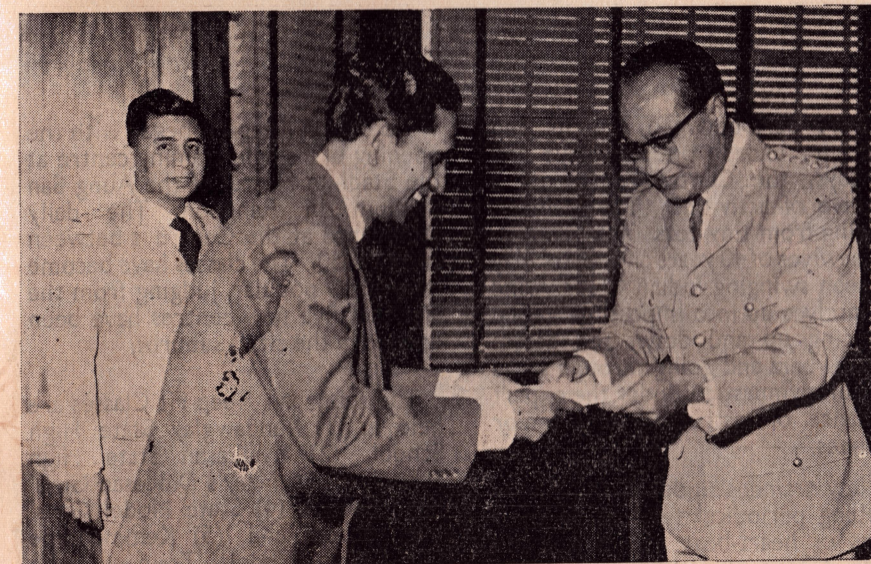
4. Brigadier Sein Win, a Revolutionary Council member and Commanding Officer of the Central Command, tours Pyu Township to examine ways and means of expanding sugar cane cultivation and sugar production.

Government announces today new names for the various Universities, Colleges and faculties in the Union, which will be opened under the new University education system in November.

5. Lt.-Colonel San Win, Vice-Chairman of the Union of Burma Agricultural Marketing Board, addresses the 13th Annual Conference of Zonal Managers and Assistant Managers of the UBAMB in Rangoon this morning.

8. The remains of Thakin Kodaw Hmaing are entombed on site allotted by the Revolutionary Government on Shwedagon Pagoda Road. Chairman of Revolutionary Council, General Ne Win and Members of the Revolutionary Council send a wreath to the funeral.

The Revolutionary Government, besides allotting land for entombment, has donated a total sum of K 15,000 towards funeral expenses, and has also erected a reception pandal.



The Ceylonese Ambassador to Burma presents his credentials to the Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, General Ne Win

and the Rumanian Ambassador, Mr. Gheorche Popescu present their credentials one after another to the Chairman of the Revolutionary Council at the State House.

The visiting United Nations Secretary-General, U Thant calls on U Thi Han, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

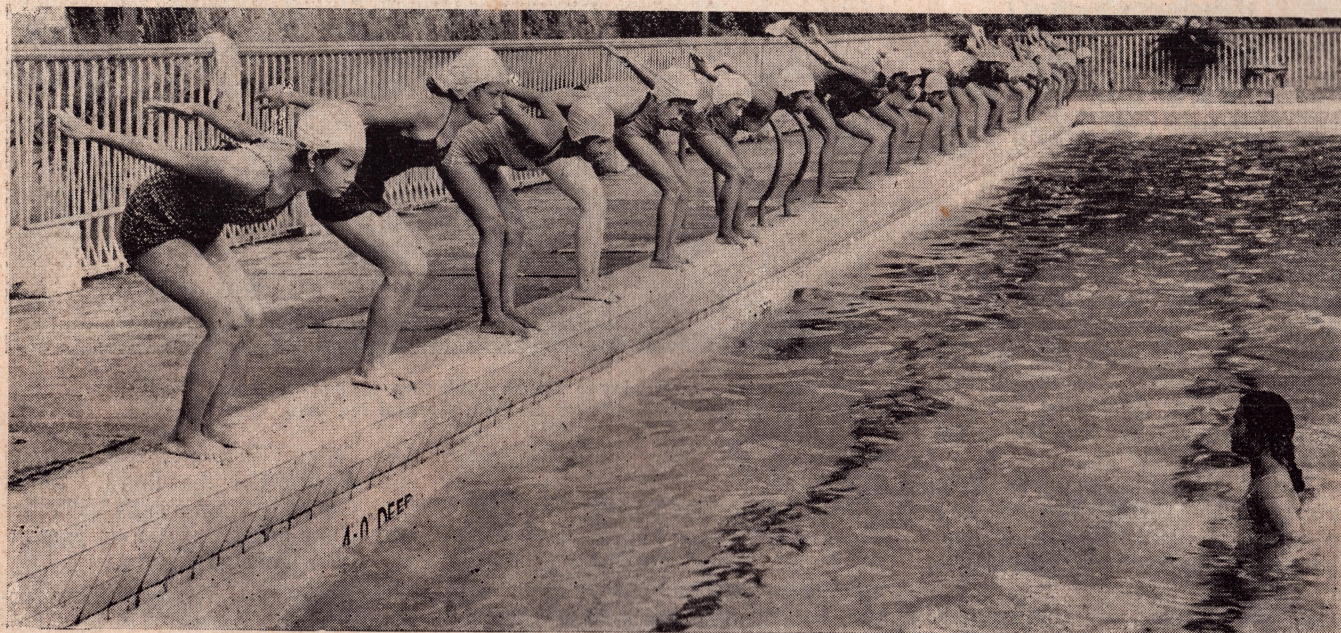
Colonel Tin Oo addresses an inaugural ceremony to mark the fifth in a series of educational courses on administration held at the head-

District to select a site for setting up a school of fishing.

August 1964

1. The Chairman of the Revolutionary Council forms a School Textbooks Committee with the Education Minister as Chairman.

3. Speaking at the Passing-Out Parade of the eleventh basic training course for military provost of the Army, Navy and Air Force, Brigadier



Operation Keep-Fit 1964

Operation Keep-Fit was launched in 1962 (Forward Vol. I, No 7) to promote sports-consciousness among the fair sex in Burma. Another important objective of the Keep-Fit classes was to provide a corrective to the cramped and sedentary way of life that Burmese women of the overcrowded towns and cities are forced to lead.

Since the Keep-Fit classes were first opened in March 1962, 500 trainees have registered themselves at the Centre at the Aung San Stadium.

Operation Keep-Fit is also doing yeoman's service in the cause of "body beautiful." An added significance is the fact that 17 cinema actresses currently are going through the rigorous courses that the Keep-Fit Classes provide.

This year's trainees at the Aung San Stadium Keep-Fit Centre, as usual, represent a cross-section of Burmese women of the cities. A breakdown of their numbers by occupation reveals that this year's Keep-Fit trainees include 126 kindergarten and high school students, 32 college students, 18 daily wage-earners, 27 clerks, 8 teachers, 15 housewives and 17 cinema actresses.

Every day, between 3 p. m. and 6 p. m., except on Saturdays and Sundays, the Centre represents a beehive of activities. The trainees, ranging from tiny tots of 5 years to housewives of 40 years and more, may be seen swinging Indian Clubs, tying themselves up into impossible knots, swinging up and down and across parallel bars and going through some difficult gymnastics, under the expert guidance of instructors and senior trainees.

New trainees undergo some very probing periodical tests as to their rates of heart-beat and pulse, and their degree of endurance and stamina. Later, after a period of pre-conditioning courses, they are assigned to some particular branch of the Centre's activities for which they have a special aptitude, such as gymnastics or badminton or volley ball, etc. Those interested in swimming are given lessons at the National Swimming pool on U Wizara Road on specified days.

Of Keep-Fit trainees, 35 are undergoing training at the Swimming pool, 10 with the Badminton instructors, and 14 with the Track and Field experts.

Operation Keep-Fit began with the opening of a single training centre at the Stadium Hostel of the Aung San Stadium in Rangoon. The daily attendance at the Centre is between 100 and 150. The classes have become immensely popular, judging from the fact that five new centres have been opened in the city's suburbs.

The suburban Keep-Fit Classes are held in (1) Kandawglay State High School, (2) Kyauksan State High School, (3) St. Mary's Diocesan Girls' High School, (4) State Model Girls' High School and (5) Kemmendine Girls' High School. Trainees, who have graduated from the Stadium Centre as instructors are assigned to these new suburban centres.

The Youth Affairs Section of the Ministry of Education is working hand-in-hand with the Union of Burma Sports and Physical Education Committee, which has taken over the functions of the National Fitness Council, towards the further development of "Operation Keep-Fit." The ultimate objective of this committee is to raise the standard of health and physique of Burma's womanhood.



WOMEN'S PHYSICAL CULTURE COURSE: Physical beauty and physical fitness are the keynotes of a Physical Culture Course for Women organized by the Union of Burma Sports and Education Committee at the Aung San Stadium in Rangoon. The course is very popular among the school girls, some of whom are seen here joyfully performing the basic exercises through light weightlifting.

Photo by U San Win

Back Cover:

A girl sugar cane grower brings the produce of the family plantation to the sugar mill at Zeyawaddy.

Photo by U Mya

